



## Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan



## 8. Recommendations

### 8.1 Introduction

Chapter 8 summarizes the findings of the Needs Assessment and recommends a series of actions to improve and expand Hurst's park system. These recommendations address additional acreage for park land, the development of land already acquired and dedicated for neighborhood parks, general improvements to existing parks and the development of trails and other recreation facilities. The recommendations should be implemented or initiated over the general life of this master plan, which covers the next five to ten years.

Recommended items in this chapter are prioritized in Chapter 9, The Implementation Plan.

The recommendations fall into four general categories:

- Acquisition  
Acquire land for park expansion, new recreation facilities, and open space including habitat protection where possible.
- Development  
Develop undeveloped parks according to the specific need and in order of priority.
- Recreation facilities  
Provide needed recreational facilities.
- Improvements  
Implement key improvements to existing parks.



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### **8.2 Land Acquisition**

The City of Hurst is virtually built out and vacant land is scarce. The City cannot meet the minimum standards for park land acreage for a city of its size and every effort possible should be made to acquire additional land for park and recreation facilities. Acquisition of land should be focused on the expansion of existing parks, new special purpose parks, the provision of new recreation facilities and the protection of habitat, including stands of post oak trees. Land acquisition may include direct purchasing or the establishment of recreation and/or park land easements. The following recommendations target such land acquisition. (See the Vacant Land Map and Acquisition Phasing Plan.)

#### **Land for Community Park Expansion**

#### ***Expansion of Existing Parks***

The community park acreage in the City meets the target standard. However, additional facilities typically provided at community parks are needed and warrants the acquisition of park land for that purpose.

##### Hurst Community Park

- Acquire two acres of land on the east side of the park along Precinct Line Road for additional recreational amenities.

#### **Land for Neighborhood Park Expansion**

##### Hurst Hills Park

- Acquire the plot of vacant land to the west of the park to add acreage to the park and to provide direct access to Walker Branch Creek.
- Acquire additional land north of the park on both sides of the creek to increase the size of the park and to provide additional stream access and stream protection.

##### Highway 10 Neighborhood Park

- Acquire a part of the 16.75 acres of vacant land south of the park to increase the size and usability of the park. Place preference on land adjacent to Arwine Road in order to make the park more visible and accessible.

#### **Land for Special Purpose Park Expansion**

##### Hurst Athletic Complex

- The parcels of land to the northeast of the Hurst Athletic Complex total more than 13 acres. Parts of it are ideally suited to be incorporated into a neighborhood park and to provide additional parking for the Athletic Complex.
- It is recommended that about 7 acres be acquired for the neighborhood park, including a wide boulevard access from Highway 26 and additional parking with access to the Athletic Complex.

#### **Land for Linear Park Expansion**

##### Billy Creek Linear Park

Enlarge the park by acquiring the following parcels of vacant land:

- 1.48 acres of land upstream of the Melbourne Road Bridge. This will provide for additional protection of the creek.



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- A minimum of 3 acres of the 7.85 acre parcel of land southwest of the park to provide access off Crestview Road.
- A minimum of 10 acres of the 17.63 acre of vacant land north of Highway 10 with access to Walker Branch.

Once trails are developed along the TXU utility right-of-ways in Hurst, additional land adjacent to the utility right-of-ways will add to the experience along the trails. Such land is identified as follows:

### South TXU utility line

- Land to the south of Billy Creek Linear Park (see above).
- Land east of the Billy Creek Linear Park (see above).
- Land where the TXU utility line intersects with Lorean Branch. The purpose of land acquisition is to provide amenities along the trail, as well as habitat protection along the creek for a width of at least 200 feet.
- Small parcels of land at Norwood Drive.
- The same parcel of land that will increase the size of Highway 10 Neighborhood Park.

### Middle TXU utility line

- Land where Lorean Branch intersects with the TXU utility line.

### North TXU utility line

- A parcel of land just north of Chisholm Park.

## **Land for Special Recreation Center Expansion**

### Recreation Center and Aquatic Center

- Acquire land to the north of the Recreation and Aquatic Center for future park needs including a possible skate park and to increase the Pipeline road frontage.

## **Land for City Cemetery Expansion**

### Parker Cemetery

- Acquire land to the east and west of the cemetery as a “habitat and cemetery protection zone” and to provide “breathing space” to the cemetery with its unique historic, natural and peaceful character.
- If found redundant, acquire the road easement that allows for the extension of Glen Road onto Highway 10, to the east of the cemetery.
- Extend the cemetery open space towards the west where a dense stand of post oak trees is found.

## **Land for New Neighborhood, Linear Parks and Open Space**

Based on the City’s target standard, the deficit of land for neighborhood, linear parks and open space combined is more than 115 acres.

## ***New Parks***



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### Land along Precinct Line bisected by a tributary of Little Bear Creek

This particular site is 33-acres in size and is large enough to contain the following:

- a neighborhood park of about eight acres in size,
- a linear park of about 12 acres in size to allow for 200 feet stream bank protection both sides of the creek,
- open space of about 5 acres to allow for the additional protection of the native vegetation of the site, and
- two acres for a regional recreation center.

### **Land for New Special Purpose Parks**

#### Dog Park

A dog park works best when it is located separately from a residential neighborhood. Two parcels of vacant land between Highway 10 and the TRE railway road are ideally suited for this purpose:

- Between Precinct Line Road and Calloway Branch (26.08 acres)
- East of Lorean Branch (17.91 acres)

A minimum of 10 acres is recommended in order to develop the needed amenities of this type of park.

#### Skate Parks

A site ideally suited for a skate park includes the parcel of land north of Hurst Recreation Center, which is accessible from Pipeline Road. This site provides both accessibility and visibility within the community especially since it is associated with three distinct facilities: the Central Aquatics Center, the Hurst Recreation Center, and the Hurst Tennis Center.

#### City Entry along Highway 26

- Three acres of vacant land along Highway 26 is well suited for a dramatic entry sign as the City is approached from Colleyville.

#### Highway 183 Landscape Buffer

- Acquire land on both sides of Highway 183 between the Hurst/Bedford border and Lorean Branch to create a tree filled buffer, which will assist in mitigating the impact of the widening of Highway 183 on the residential character of the City of Hurst.

### **Land for new Indoor Recreational Facilities**

#### Land at the Northern part of the City

A site ideally located for a new recreation center is within an undeveloped 33-acre site in the northern part of the City. The land is located along Precinct Line Road and is bisected by a tributary of the Little Bear Creek. The benefit of such a location is that it will provide specialized recreational amenities in a part of the City that is relatively under-served. This Center could be constructed and managed as a regional facility in conjunction with the Cities of Colleyville and North Richland Hills. Such a facility may contain a fitness center, gymnasium and natatorium. The

### ***Land for New Recreation Facilities***



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setting itself will be enhanced should this recreation center be combined with a new neighborhood and linear park.

Most of other vacant parcels of land are too small to be developed into a park. However, some indoor recreation facilities can be operated independently from a park environment and may thus be provided individually as the need arises. Examples include a recreation center, fitness gymnasium and natatorium. However, the ideal is to combine all these into one facility. An option additional to the above include:

### Along Bentrige Drive between Mid-Cities Boulevard and Highway 26

The site is large enough to accommodate a recreation center, fitness gymnasium and natatorium in one park. In fact, it is also ideally suited for the inclusion of a neighborhood park as an alternative to the recommendation to acquire land northeast of the Athletic Complex for such a park. The strongest convincing argument however for dedicating this site for indoor recreation facilities is its location in the northern sector of the City as a balance to the existing indoor recreation facilities in the south section of the City.

### **Land for Protected Open Space**

Natural habitat and nature areas rank relatively high in importance for the residents in the citizen attitude survey. The City of Hurst currently has no land allocated for open space needs. Areas that have habitat value and warrant habitat protection typically include creeks, floodplains and wooded areas. A concerted effort should be made to protect remnants of the ancient Cross Timbers vegetation type that once covered Hurst and which is dominated by low-stature, slow growing and centuries old post oaks.

### ***Open Space and Drainage Ways***

General opportunities for open space land dedication include:

- Acquiring the land and/or development rights of the entire 100-year floodplain and/or land that are regularly subjected to flooding.
- Acquiring secondary tributary streams or swales that can create linkage "fingers" to adjacent neighborhoods by means of trail connections.

Specific opportunities for Open Space Land dedication include:

- A wide landscaped and tree filled buffer along Highway 183 (see New Special Purpose Park above).
- Land associated with Parker Cemetery (described under New Special Purpose Park above). The dense and relatively undisturbed stand of post oak trees found within and on both sides of the cemetery is of great importance. Fully described in Chapter 2, many post oaks predate not only statehood, but also the birth of the United States. Two to four hundred year old post oaks survive in the Cross Timbers. In fact, post oak trees that average only 15" in diameter and 30' tall are typically in the 200- to 300-year age class.
- Enlargement of Highway 10 Neighborhood Park to include more of the native trees to the south of the park.



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- Part of the vacant 33-acre site in the most northern part of the City is ideal to dedicate as protected open space containing post oaks and other trees.

Land associated with drainage ways include:

- Little Bear Creek valley and tributary, which totals a distance of 1.6 miles.
- Land to the south of Billy Creek Linear Park associated with the TXU utility line.
- Vacant land where the TXU utility line intersects with Walker Branch.
- Vacant land where the TXU utility line intersects with Lorean Branch along Highway 10.
- Vacant land along Walker Branch adjacent to Hurst Hills Park.
- Vacant land along the TXU utility line where it intersects with Lorean Branch.
- Parcels of land south of Bellaire Park.
- Small parcels of land north and south of Redbud Road along Valley View Branch.
- A small one-acre parcel of land south of Pipeline Road along Valley View Branch. This provides the opportunity for a small pocket park as part of the future Multi-use Development along Pipeline Road.

The City has acquired various parcels of land for future park development. Developing these parks will assist the City in getting closer to meeting its target standard for park acreage. Park development is recommended for neighborhood, linear parks and special purpose parks.

### **8.3 Park Development**

#### Single loaded roads along park boundaries

One of the most important considerations for the success and enjoyment of any type of park is to implement single loaded roads along its boundaries. A single loaded road basically means development on the one side only with open access to a park, creek or open space on the opposite side. Such a road creates a sense of openness and safety due to informal surveillance and the opportunity for increased access and enjoyment by the entire community as opposed to the scenario where houses and other developments back up to a park. This should become a standard requirement that the City demands from all future developers.

General planning and design approach for neighborhood parks:

- Prepare a design concept for each undeveloped neighborhood park that incorporates children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, areas for unorganized play, multi-purpose practice fields, picnic facilities and a park pavilion.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.
- Provide good pedestrian access to all parks including signage and a wide, welcoming gateway.

### **Neighborhood Parks**



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- Consider and require single loaded roads along park boundaries.

The following are specific recommendations per undeveloped park:

### **Highway 10 Neighborhood Park**

- Increase the size and usability of the park by acquiring land to the south of the park. Place preference on land adjacent to Arwine Road in order to make the park more visible and accessible.
- Prepare a design plan for the park without compromising the integrity and ecology of the site with maximum environmental benefit and the need for minimum maintenance.
- Develop a maintenance program that ensures the survival of the well-established and dense indigenous vegetation.
- Consider passive and low impact activities including children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic facilities and a shaded pavilion in lieu of active ball play that requires large open areas.
- Demand a single loaded road for any future development adjacent to the park to increase visibility and access to the park.

### **Hurst Hills Park**

- Develop the park as a collaborative effort with the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District with facilities that can be used jointly by the school and the residents.
- Acquire the plot of vacant land to the west of the park to add acreage to the park and to provide direct access to Walker Branch.
- Once the additional land is incorporated, design and develop an interpretive trail along Walker Branch.

### **Mayfair Park**

- Develop a pedestrian connection over the drainage way in order to link the church parking area with the park.
- Collaborate with the neighboring church to share parking.
- Should the new Hurst Senior Activities Center be considered for development within Mayfair Park, it is essential that a planning study be done to ensure that the site as a park amenity not be lost and that the integrity of Mayfair Park not be compromised. Considerations should include limiting the building foot print, ample public space for use in a park setting and compliance to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) which is a program whereby better buildings are constructed through sustainable site design, energy and water conservation, and healthy interiors. For more information visit [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed).

### **Valentine Park**

- Through neighborhood planning, create a vision for this park in order to develop and incorporate the specific facilities and amenities that are needed.



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### **Wan-Ka-Kani Park**

- Dedicate the natural wooded areas as a protected open space with limited access via interpretive trails and sensitively located benches.
- Implement restoration of the ground surface damaged by the impact of earlier BMX activity including soil amendment, mulching and extensive planting of native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.

Linear parks are characterized by their linear nature that makes them ideal for the implementation of hike and bike trails, which in essence become the “spine” of each particular park. Linear parks may be associated with creeks, railway or utility corridors and are ideal to create connections between different destination points. Whereas trail development typically includes amenities like trail heads, rest stops, overlooks, benches and light fixtures, linear parks may include additional amenities and facilities e.g. picnic pavilions, playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts.

### ***Linear Parks***

Where possible consider and require single loaded roads along park boundaries. The following describes recommendations for the development of a number of individual linear parks.

### **Billy Creek Park**

- Provide access to the north side of the park from Melbourne Road along the strip of public land between the houses and the west bank of the creek.
- Provide a neighborhood access point from Bradford Road on the west side and Billy Creek Drive on the east side.
- Develop low water crossings and/or pedestrian bridges to provide access to both sides of Calloway Branch.
- Develop a vehicular entrance with parking from Highway 10, which borders the park to the south.
- Encourage landowners adjacent to the park, especially along the creek, to plant riparian type trees and to leave wide bands of unmowed grass along the stream edge. This, together with native grasses and plants, will provide privacy for the residents and add to a natural stream ambiance.
- Enlarge the park by acquiring land upstream of the Melbourne Road Bridge, land southwest of the park to provide access off Crestview Road and land north of Highway 10 with access to Walker Branch.

### **Highway 10 Linear Park**

- Develop a hike and bike trail (minimum 12 feet wide) along the entire length of the park.
- Develop trailheads at Rickel Park and Arwine Drive at Highway 10 Neighborhood Park.
- Develop a pedestrian crossing over the creek at Highway 10 Neighborhood Park.
- Provide trail amenities including benches, light fixtures, exercise





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stations and water fountains.

- Extend the trail through Highway 10 Neighborhood Park along the TXU easement in a western direction towards Billy Creek Park.

### **Little Bear Creek Trail**

- Develop a hike and bike trail along the entire length of Little Bear Creek and its tributary as it runs through Hurst.
- Coordinate with Colleyville and North Richland Hills to have this trail connected to the adjacent cities' trail systems.
- Develop a trail connection with the Cottonbelt Trail.
- Develop at least two trailheads: one at the intersection with the Cottonbelt Trail and one off Woodridge Drive.
- Connect the Little Bear Creek Trail via a six feet wide sidewalk with Echo Hills Park.

### **Mayfair Linear Park**

- Develop a hike and bike trail along the entire length of the park.
- Develop trail connections along Valley View Branch between L.D. Bell High School, Mayfair Neighborhood Park and the middle TXU utility line at Harwood Road.
- Implement low water crossings and/or pedestrian bridges to increase the length of trail and use of the park.

### **Dog Park**

- The Attitude (Telephone) Survey indicated a moderate need for a dog park.
- For nuisance reasons, most residents would not want such a park in close proximity to their homes.
- Dog parks require a fairly large tract of land as well as adequate management and control.
- Amenities that work well in a dog park include a pavilion, playground (well secured), ball fields and ball courts as well as a hike and bike trail.
- Vacant parcels of land between Highway 10 and the TRE railway line are ideal for dog parks.
- Develop a dog park only if future support grows for this type of facility and if land is secured for this purpose.

### ***Special Purpose Parks***

### **Skate Park**

- The Attitude (Telephone) Survey indicated a moderate need for a skate park.
- Access and visibility within the community is key for its location.
- Full time supervision during predetermined operating time periods is essential.
- Two options are available for a skate park:
  - On the proposed land to be acquired on the east side of Hurst Community Park along Precinct Line Road; or



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- On the land recommended for acquisition between the Central Aquatics Center and Pipeline Road. The first option is particularly attractive, since the site is located adjacent to West Hurst Elementary.
- Develop a skate park only if future support grows for this type of facility and if land is secured for this purpose.

### Highway 183 Landscape Buffer Special Purpose Park

- For purposes of mitigating the future expansion of Highway 183 it is recommended that land be acquired for a landscape buffer dedicated as a special purpose park on both sides of Highway 183 between the Norwood Drive (east City limits) and Lorean Branch.
- Plant dense groves of trees between the highway and the adjacent residential community on both sides of the highway.
- Enhance the existing vehicular and pedestrian crossings over Highway 183. Develop wide and landscaped hike and bike pedestrian bridges (minimum 20 feet wide). Provide minimum 14 feet wide hike and bike walkways adjacent to the vehicular bridges.
- Develop trails amongst the trees with connections to the adjacent community.

The following are the key facility needs in Hurst, based on facility standards and citizen input. The facilities are presented in order of priority.

- 1 Multi-purpose trails
- 2 Recreation Center
- 3 Natatorium
- 4 Park restrooms
- 5 Natural habitat/areas
- 6 Playgrounds
- 7 Dog parks
- 8 Skate park
- 9 Amphitheater
- 10 Basketball courts

### **8.4 Development of Recreation Facilities**

*Summary of Key  
Facility Needs*

Trails featured among the highest desired elements in the citizen survey and merit more detailed motivation and recommendations for trail implementation.

*Trails Network*

### **Begin to develop a true citywide trails network**

Hurst should begin the process of developing a system of trails that begins to link parks, schools and other facilities.

The purpose of trails is to provide an alternative to vehicular transportation and the opportunity for recreation in order to improve resident's health, enhance the quality of life, help improve and protect the City's natural resources, and be a source of pride for the community. The

*Purpose of Trails*



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Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan envisions a system of trail corridors that will connect to the City's environmental features including creeks, schools, parks, public facilities, historic landmarks, local neighborhoods, and business districts, in Hurst as well as trails in neighboring communities. A high-quality trail system is a marker of a community where it is pleasant to live, work and play.

Summarized reasons for developing a citywide trail system include the following:

- Can provide a means of transportation from one location to another.
- Creates a very visible recreational element that contributes to the perceived quality of life in the city.
- Trails may be used by all age groups.
- Trails are relatively easy to maintain, as opposed to many other types of recreation facilities.

The term "trail" as used in this document, refers to multi-use trails and shared use paths as a multi-purpose means of transportation shared by bicyclists, joggers, in-line skaters, walkers, and other non-motorized users.

*Trail Definition and Categories*

Off-street trails, which are contained in their own corridors, are divided in soft surface and hard surface trails.

- Soft surface trails are appropriate for use in environmentally sensitive areas, such as creeks corridors, to be used by hikers, walkers and runners and may consist of recycled concrete, decomposed granite, wood shavings or earth.
- Hard surface trails are typically 8 to 12 feet wide and should have minimal conflict with vehicular traffic. Such trails are appropriate for bicyclists, pedestrians (walkers, joggers and runners) wheelchair users, skaters and other non-motorized users.

Trails less than 10 feet in width are considered pedestrian-use only, while multi-use trails are required to be 10 feet wide or greater, such as for bicycles, in-line skaters, skateboards, etc.

These trails must be designed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) standards and other State and Federal guidelines.

On-street trail connectors (enhanced sidewalks) are sidewalks minimum 8 feet wide (10-12' recommended) and provide key connections between off-street trails. Typically sidewalks are not a good substitute for trails, in that two-way bicycle traffic on one side of a road increases conflicts, particularly at intersections, but may be appropriate in certain circumstances. However, sidewalks are important for walking along



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roadways and should at least be a standard component of every roadway project. On-street trails should have a planted buffer that may or may not include a concrete curb between the trail and the adjacent roadway.

The first step to achieve a viable trail network is to determine a section/area for trail development and use that as a pilot program. Potential hike and bike trail sections include:

### *Trail Sections*

#### TXU Utility Rights-of-Way

- The north TXU utility line from the Cottonbelt railway line in the west to Harwood Road for a distance of 2.27 miles. It provides the opportunity for a connection with the future Cottonbelt trail, through Chisholm Park towards the intersection of the middle utility line.
- The middle TXU utility line for a distance of 1.53 miles from Highway 26 north of Tarrant County College Northeast Campus to Harwood Road where it intersects with the north TXU utility line.
- The south TXU utility line north of Highway 10 from Rickel Park in the east to Billy Creek Estates Park in the west for a distance of 2.84 miles.

#### Potential trails associated with creeks and drainage ways

- Little Bear Creek Trail along the main creek and tributary that connects the City of Hurst with the cities of North Richland Hills (west city limit) and Colleyville (north and east city limits).
- Calloway Branch between Jaycee Baker Park and the Fort Worth city limits along Billy Creek Linear Park.
- Walker Branch between Pipeline Road and the Fort Worth city limits.
- Lorean Branch between Highway 26 and Smith-Barfield Park along the Hurst Athletic Complex.
- Lorean Branch between Highway 183 and Pipeline Road along Valentine Park.
- Lorean Branch between Pipeline Road and the Fort Worth city limits along Central Park and Redbud Park.
- Valley View Branch between the middle TXU utility line at Harwood Road and L.D. Bell High School along Mayfair Linear Park.
- Valley View Branch between Bedford-Eules Road and Pipeline Road.
- Valley View Branch between Pipeline Road and the Fort Worth city limits.

Many of these drainage ways in Hurst are channelized with concrete. However, through innovative design it is possible to achieve trail connections. This requires a study to investigate each section of drainage way.

#### Railway corridor

- Cottonbelt Trail is associated with the Cottonbelt Railway Line and is currently being designed. It is now an opportune time for Hurst to



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include trail amenities like trail heads, rest stops, overlooks, benches and light fixtures to be made part of the future construction.

Recommendations per key facility needs in Hurst are as follows:

### ***Recommendations per key facilities***

#### Multi-purpose Trails to Stroll, Walk, Jog, Hike and/or Cycle

- Link Hurst's trail system with trails in neighboring cities.
- Potential opportunities for trails include 14 miles of creeks and drainage ways, 6.5 miles of TXU utility lines and 1 mile of Cottonbelt railroad corridor.
- Creation of the first and/or second segment of trail along a TXU utility right-of-way should be the focus of the first five years of this 10 year plan. Such an approach will serve as a "demonstration" trail to show citizens, development interests and others what a trail brings to the community and will generate interest to expand the City's proposed trail system over time. Funding for trail development is available through various grant opportunities.

#### Recreation Center

Develop an indoor recreation center with sport facilities that feature on this list of key facility needs. The following strategy is recommended:

- Identify partners to assist in the development of a recreation center e.g. the HEB Independent School District.
- Determine the preferred location for such a center, especially in north Hurst. One option is the 11.69 acres vacant land along Bentridge Drive between Mid-Cities Boulevard and Highway 26. This location creates the potential to develop a regional recreation center used by residents of neighboring cities including North Richland Hills with the close-by new planned development along Highway 26. Another possible location is the 33-acre site along Precinct Line Road in north Hurst.
- Determine what the center should contain – a marketing and feasibility analysis should be conducted by the City to determine the preferred contents of the center.
- Estimate the annual cost to operate the facility, and determine what fees would be assessed to recover some or all of the operational costs of the center.
- Determine the mechanism for funding the potential center.
- Determine the timeframe for implementation of this recommendation. Such a facility could be built within the next 10-year planning period.

#### Natatorium

- Develop a natatorium in conjunction with the potential new recreation center.
- Estimate the annual cost to operate the facility, and determine what fees would be assessed to recover some or all of the operational costs of the center.
- Determine the mechanism for funding the potential center.

#### Key Recreational Facilities

- 1 Trails
- 2 Recreation Center
- 3 Natatorium
- 4 Park restrooms
- 5 Natural habitat/areas
- 6 Playgrounds
- 7 Dog parks
- 8 Skate park
- 9 Amphitheater
- 10 Basketball courts



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- Determine the timeframe for implementation of this recommendation.

### Park Restrooms

- Although expressed as a need by respondents to the attitude survey, it is recommended that restrooms are provided at community parks only, for example Chisholm Park.
- The provision of restrooms at neighborhood parks is discouraged. Compared to community parks, neighborhood parks typically have irregular use with fewer visitors. This makes it easier for vandalism to occur. Neighborhood parks are also typically in walking distance the visitors' home and restrooms are thus less of an urgent need.
- Remove or improve existing restrooms in Jaycee-Baker Park and Smith-Barfield Park.

### Nature Areas / Natural Habitat

The mere scarcity and lack of natural areas in the City demand a high priority for this important feature and amenity. Many cities have only an interest in programmed park land. However, land with no particular program may fulfill the function of wildlife habitat and flood control. If managed correctly, such land typically requires the least amount of maintenance.

Nature areas and natural habitat also provides a sense of visual, emotional and psychological relief to citizens. The provision of such land does not include the acquisition of undeveloped land only, but may include areas within existing parks where the establishment of native trees, wildflowers and native grasses is encouraged. This, in turn, allows for activities including bird watching and wildflower enjoyment.

The conservation of open space and natural areas also makes sense from an economic standpoint. It has been proven that the value of property adjacent or close to open space often has a substantial premium over the value of property in the same vicinity but not identified with the open space.

Every effort should be made to secure the protection of existing natural areas and to restore disturbed sites.

### Playgrounds

- Playgrounds are important gathering sites for families and parents to stimulate and promote social interaction in the community.
- Plan and design for the development of playgrounds in all existing and future parks.

### Dog Parks

- Important for the success of a dog park is acreage, management and control in order to ensure effective and appropriate use; and to prevent nuisance for visitors and park neighbors.



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- A large enough site will allow for the co-existence of other recreational facilities including picnic pavilions, playgrounds (well secured to prevent animal access), basketball courts and trails.
- Develop a dog park when land can be secured for this purpose.

### Skate Parks

Skate parks are only successful when located in high use areas with high visibility and good supervision. Good locations include a recreation center, community park and/or aquatic center. Predetermined operating times with adequate supervision is further essential to ensure the successful use of a skate park. Two options are available for a skate park: On the proposed land to be acquired on the east side of the Hurst Community Park along Precinct Line Road, or on the land recommended for acquisition between the Central Aquatics Center and Pipeline Road. What makes the first option particular attractive, is the fact that the site is located adjacent to West Hurst Elementary.

### Amphitheater

The opportunity for a “natural” amphitheater is limited within Hurst due to a lack of vacant land with a dramatic topography change. However, flat land can be as effective by providing a large open space with a raised platform to serve as a stage area. The activity at amphitheaters typically attracts large groups; therefore adequate parking is an important requirement. Development of an amphitheater is recommended when suitable property can be acquired for this purpose.

### Basketball Courts

Provide basketball courts at all community and selected neighborhood parks.

Notes on other important recreational amenities:

### ***Other recreational amenities***

#### Rental Picnic / Reunion Pavilions

- The use of picnic facilities may be described as follows:
  - Serve many diverse age groups.
  - Are key to recreational use during the warm seasons of the year.
  - Larger facilities may generate rental revenue for the City.
- Distribution should remain balanced throughout the City so that all sections have a good supply of park pavilions and tables.
- Design and construct pavilions to allow for airflow through the roof by means of a two tiered roof structure.

### Picnic Tables

Provide picnic tables at all community and neighborhood parks.



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### **8.5 High Priority Existing Park Improvement**

The following key improvements to existing parks are recommended during the next 10-year period. These recommendations are based on the analysis of parks described in Chapter 3.

#### **Park Signage**

- Develop and install directional and informational signage at all city parks.
- A well-conceived and designed signage theme will add to the unique identity and character of the City of Hurst.

**Citywide**

#### **Tree Planting and Tree Protection**

- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.
- Develop a tree protection program to ensure the preservation of mature trees, especially in areas of high levels of use and sheet erosion.

#### **Creek Access**

- Where parks are located adjacent to creeks, investigate the provision of controlled physical (low water crossings similar to Central Park) and visual access along the creek.
- Consider a wide band of native trees and grass at the edge of the channel in order to recreate a riparian character, which will add visitors' interest and will attract creek-associated animal and bird life.
- Place a priority on the "day-lighting" of piped streams in order to re-introduce healthy creek ecosystems.

#### **Art in Public Places**

- Develop a policy to include environmental and outdoor art in parks and open space as part of the City's Art in Public Places initiative.
- Art has a tremendous potential to add additional layers of meaning to the landscape and to encourage contemplation as a manner of passive recreation.

#### **Shade**

Consider adding shade components at various parks, especially at the children's playground areas.

#### **Park Maintenance**

Consider implementing an organic maintenance program for all parks whereby the use of chemical fertilizer is replaced and/or enhanced with organic compost applications and chemical herbicides and pesticides are replaced by an organic approach. This is important for the health of landscape plants, creeks, as well as park users.

The most beneficial aspect of compost (organic approach) is that it increases the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the soil, which increases the soil's ability to hold moisture and nutrients. The chemical approach primarily focuses on weed control and nutrients. Thus using





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compost in the spring will add organic matter and increase the CEC, so that the water and nutrients will be absorbed more efficiently during the summer months.

An organic maintenance approach makes particular sense in planting beds. Cost typically starts at about \$35 per cubic yard with increase costs depending on special mixes and locations.

### Wi-Fi Access

Access to the Internet in parks is popular in many cities. Consider providing Wi-Fi access in all City parks. Wi-Fi is short for *wireless fidelity*, which allows the user to connect to the Internet without the need for wires

Implement general facility improvements per individual park as recommended in Chapter 3. The following reflects priority park improvements.

### **Individual Parks**

#### **Central Park**

- Design and construct an entranceway from Pipeline Road to mark the park's presence, welcome visitors and present the promise of fun and excitement.
- Apply the theme of the entranceway design throughout the rest of the park to create a sense of unity.

### **Community Parks**

#### **Hurst Community Park**

- Design and construct an entry feature that is inviting and that welcomes visitors to the park.
- Apply the theme of the entranceway design throughout the rest of the park to create a sense of unity.

#### **Chisholm Park**

- Design and construct a permanent restroom facility that is aesthetically pleasing, comfortable, safe and unobtrusive. The criterion for its location is both physical and visual accessibility. A potential location is in the open area north of the main playground area. Extreme care should be taken to prevent damage to trees during and after construction.
- Maintain the natural setting of the park drive by developing planting beds with stone and native grass at the edge of the road in lieu of bollards and a curb and gutter approach.
- Relocate the dumpster at the ball fields and add a proper live screen. The criteria for its location are visual and olfactory unobtrusiveness and easy access for users as well as the waste truck. A possible location is at the far end of the parking area west of the ball fields. Consideration should also be given to the removal of the dumpster, as concession stand trash could be disposed of in the same manner as at the Hurst Athletic Complex.
- Install erosion protection measure in order to protect trees subject to sheet erosion from further damage.



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- Provide pathways between the mature post oak trees and plant natural shade loving grasses to discourage foot traffic and to prevent erosion around the tree trunks.
- Develop a series of pools and riffles along the drainage way to add character and aquatic interest to the park.

### **Bellaire Park**

### ***Neighborhood Parks***

- Provide a cable suspension shade structure over the children's play area.
- Collaborate with the future church development to share facilities and amenities including walkways, children's play areas and parking.

### **Smith Barfield Park**

- Develop a landscape plan for the western portion of the park to tie it with the eastern side.
- Renovate the restroom structure.

### **Echo Hills Park**

- Install erosion protection measure in order to protect trees subject to sheet erosion from further damage.
- Establish the native and shade loving grass: inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*).

### **Vivagene Copeland Park**

- Encourage residents adjacent to the park to become involved in Hurst's Volunteers in Action (VIA) program to assist the City with park cleanliness, surveillance and to learn about specific community needs.
- Provide a cable suspension shade structure over the play equipment.
- Add lighting to the trail, especially the north section.
- Develop the remaining two half-court basketball courts.

### **Hurst Athletic Complex**

### ***Special Purpose Parks***

Recommendations for upgrading the City's Athletic Complex include improvement of the overall drainage system; development of additional parking for athletic events; and aesthetic improvement of the park (see Appendix B). Specific recommendations include:

- Restore the creek to a viable ecological system.
- Stabilize the stream bank by means of wetland prairie plants.
- Encourage the establishment of natural biota in the creek.
- Acquire land to the northeast of the park for the development of a neighborhood park and parking with direct access to the Athletic Complex.
- Provide an access to the neighborhood park and Athletic Complex directly from Highway 26.
- Develop a trail with an integrated fitness course around the softball fields and for the full length of the creek with a connection along Lorean Branch.



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- Establish all newly acquired land as well as existing park land with native plants including grasses and wildflowers.
- Reduce turf to the minimum and only where required for ball play, picnic or grass seating.

### **Rickel Park**

- Install erosion protection where it appears in heavily used areas.
- Develop a link to the Highway 10 Linear Park along the TXU easement that runs through the park.

### **Windmill Park**

- Redevelop the park with additional plantings, benches and walkways that are ADA accessible.
- Restore the windmill.

### **Hurst Recreation Center**

- Place the overhead utility lines underground along Mary Drive to avoid visual clutter.

### ***Specialized Recreation Centers***

### **Tennis Center**

- Improve the existing court lighting system according to the United States Tennis Association (USTA) recommendation for luminance levels.
- Implement additional landscape and botanical improvements.

### **Parker Cemetery**

- Street paint a minimum number of five on-street parking spaces.
- Provide compost and mulch to protect the mature trees and to prevent further damage to the tree roots.
- Provide and maintain decomposed granite pathways throughout the cemetery.
- Add a decorative stone column and metal fence around the cemetery property.
- Add benches with two goals in mind: reflection on history and the deceased; and views to the south.

### ***City Cemetery***

### **Cottonbelt Trail**

- Although the Cottonbelt Trail is only in the design phase, it is imperative that the City plans for adding amenities including trail heads, rest stops, overlooks, benches and light fixtures. In fact, the City should consider including this as part of the upcoming construction phase.
- It is expected that the Cottonbelt Trail, once completed will be a high profile facility in the community.
- Collaborate with existing and future participating cities including Colleyville and North Richland Hills to ensure continuity of features along the entire length of the trail.

### ***Trails***